



John Bonifaz

Democrat for Secretary of State

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John Bonifaz Invites Opponent to Have Open, Honest Debate

BOSTON – John Bonifaz, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, today invited his opponent, Secretary William Galvin, to engage in an open, honest debate about the key issues in their race.

“I am running for Massachusetts Secretary of State because I believe our party is strengthened by an open and honest debate, and by more choices for voters,” wrote Bonifaz in a letter to Galvin. “I look forward to a spirited discussion with you about the best ways to engage voters, such as Election Day voter registration.”

The letter follows an article in the May 27, 2006 edition of the Boston Globe in which Secretary Galvin is quoted as accusing Bonifaz of not being a Democrat.

“I am a Democrat,” Bonifaz wrote. “Any review of my voting record would reveal that. I have never been a registered Green nor a registered member of any other party.”

Bonifaz, who has voted in every Democratic primary, continued: “In fact, I entered Massachusetts politics 18 years ago, working as Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s scheduler for his re-election campaign. I am proud to have worked for Senator Kennedy, a senator who has, time and time again, stood up and fought for the core values of our party.”

For over a decade, Bonifaz has been a powerful voice and dedicated leader working with people throughout Massachusetts and across the country to protect the right to vote, demand a full recount in Ohio, overhaul the nation's campaign finance system and broaden citizen participation in the democratic process.

“Secretary Galvin, let’s give Massachusetts the race it deserves,” Bonifaz added in his letter. “Substantive debate about the issues, not misleading accusations, will benefit our party and all Massachusetts voters.

“We have that opportunity, and you have the opportunity to show your good faith that you are willing to give it to them. I hope you will join me in giving the people of Massachusetts the politics they deserve.”

The first candidate to officially declare his candidacy for Secretary of State, Bonifaz launched his campaign last December. He founded the National Voting Rights Institute in 1994 and defended the Massachusetts Clean Elections Law, passed overwhelmingly by voters in 1998, against a Legislature that turned its back on the voters it represents and refused to fund the law.

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BONIFAZ LETTER TO GALVIN

May 31, 2006

Secretary William F. Galvin
Committee to Elect Bill Galvin
444 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02135

SENT VIA CERTIFIED EXPRESS US MAIL

Dear Secretary Galvin:

In a May 27, 2006 article, the Boston Globe quotes you as referring to my candidacy as a “Green Trojan horse.” It further quotes you as stating: “There is evidence of collusion between Mr. Bonifaz and Jill Stein [the Green Rainbow Party candidate for Secretary of the State].” “Galvin may face primary battle,” The Boston Globe, May 27, 2006, B1, B4.

If you were misquoted, I am writing to ask you to publicly renounce these statements. If you did, in fact, make these statements, I am writing to clarify your misconception.

I am a Democrat. Any review of my voting record would reveal that. I have never been a registered Green nor a registered member of any other party.

In fact, I entered Massachusetts politics 18 years ago, working as Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s scheduler for his re-election campaign. I am proud to have worked for Senator Kennedy, a senator who has, time and time again, stood up and fought for the core values of our party.

I am running for Massachusetts Secretary of State because I believe our party is strengthened by an open and honest debate, and by more choices for voters. I look forward to a spirited discussion with you about the best ways to engage voters, such as election day voter registration.

The Boston Globe article says that you allege there is evidence of collusion between me and Jill Stein, and, yet, the only basis that it cites you using to make this accusation is that Ms. Stein contributed \$100 to my campaign and we accepted it. Jill Stein is a former client of mine, just like Warren Tolman, a 2002 Democratic candidate for governor of Massachusetts. Ms. Stein and Mr. Tolman, along with a broad coalition of voters, candidates, and public interest organizations, fought in court to defend the Massachusetts Clean Elections Law against entrenched power on Beacon Hill.

Secretary Galvin, let’s give Massachusetts the race it deserves. Substantive debate about the issues, not misleading accusations, will benefit our party and all Massachusetts voters.

We have that opportunity, and you have the opportunity to show your good faith that you are willing to give it to them. I hope you will join me in giving the people of Massachusetts the politics they deserve.

Sincerely,
John Bonifaz

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